

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Multifunction plate for a surface cleaner, comprising a plate of a rectangular shape, provided with gripping and manipulating means, as well as with means for securing pieces of textile, characterised in that said gripping and manipulating means, between ~~the~~ a broom-stick or ~~the~~ a holding handle and a central rod connected to the plate, are interchangeable, and capable of clipping or snap fastening the broom stick or handle, and in that there are a plurality of means for fixing different types of pieces of textile to the plate, said fixing means being at least one of the following:

-on ~~the~~ a lower base of the plate, plane portions for self-gripping strips;

-on ~~the~~ an upper face of the plate, at least clamping mechanisms co-operating with windows or cavities in the plate to hold the types of pieces of textile having turned-back edges, and holes suitable for press stud systems for fixing clips.

2. (Previously presented) Multifunction plate according to claim 1, characterised in that the interchangeable gripping and manipulating means include a joint pivoting on the rod, wherein the joint is equipped with two flexible strips for detaching the stick or the handle from the plate.

3. (Previously presented) Multifunction plate according to claim 2, characterised in that the strips bear toes capable of sliding in positioning guides that form part of a sleeve for supporting the broom-stick or the handle.

4. (Previously presented) Multifunction plate according to claim 2, characterised in that an outer border of the joint is provided with clipping toes and, opposite the toes, with holes provided in the wall to increase a flexibility of the clipping toes.

5. (Withdrawn) Multifunction plate according to claim 1, characterised in that the interchangeable gripping and manipulating means include a joint (27) that pivots about a specially shaped pin (29) displaceable longitudinally in relation to the plate (1).

6. (Withdrawn) Multifunction plate according to claim 5, characterised in that the articulation (27) is provided with cut-out portions (28) spaced apart like flats (26) borne by the specially shaped pin (29).

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) Multifunction plate according to claim 1, characterised in that the lower base is provided with cavities framed by planar, longitudinal portions serving to receive the self-gripping strips.

10. (Previously presented) Multifunction plate according to claim 1, characterised in that a clamping mechanism is constituted by a shaped strip co-operating with a central window and two lateral cavities provided on the upper face of the plate.

11. (Previously presented) Multifunction plate according to claims 1 or 10, characterised in that the strip is specially shaped to form an arch, the ends of lateral wings of which are placed in the cavities, and in that a system is provided in a center of the strip for clipping the strip in the central window.

12. (Previously presented) Multifunction plate according to claim 11, characterised in that a clipping system is constituted by resilient bars ending in toes which extend under a central portion of the strip.

13. (Previously presented) Multifunction plate according to claim 10, characterised in that two rigid levers extend into a cut-out portion of the strip and bear, via a rib, on the upper face of the plate.

14. (Previously presented) Multifunction plate according to claim 10, characterised in that two rigid levers are L-shaped and mounted on strips and come to bear against a bridge member integral with the plate.

15. (Previously presented) Multifunction plate according to claim 13, characterised in that a clipping system of the strip is constituted by two resilient bars beneath each of a border of the strip, which penetrate two adjacent central windows provided in the plate.

16. (Cancel)

17. (Previously presented) Multifunction plate according to claim 1, characterised in that the holes, suitable for press stud systems, are provided on the ends of the plate.

18. (Previously presented) Multifunction plate according to claim 1, characterised in that the holes have an oval profile orientated longitudinally of the plate.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously presented) Multifunction plate according to claim 1, characterised in that a sponge support is clipped into the holes under the lower base of the plate.